

23 April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Are we back to normal? Not quite, but we are getting there!

Walking around school this week, the school is living, breathing and thriving again. The sound of students laughing with their friends, the games of football on the 3G pitch, the students enjoying their PE lessons on the field, the joy of hearing teachers talking about the subjects they love. All of this is music to the ears of those of us who walked the dark, empty corridors from January to March. Schools are not schools without their people and communities are not communities without the accompanying warmth that human company brings to spirits and moods. When things are taken away from us we appreciate them all the more as we get them back. As parents we hope that your lives have a more normal feel about them as home schooling pressures are eased.

Thankfully Covid case numbers are now low in the country and in this area in particular. One way to ensure this continues at RPS is to keep the rhythm of home testing going so that cases can be picked up before students come into school, so keep testing, keep reporting those test results. We really appreciate your support on this!

In the Easter holidays, whilst we were all shocked by the murder of Sarah Everard, we were perhaps more heartened by the idea that there was a sense of standing up and saying that enough is enough when it comes to harassment of women and young girls in particular. We all have a role to play in our society and there is more we can always do. I would remind all of our students that if they experience any incidents of sexual harassment school is a safe place to report such things. If you feel worried about talking to a form tutor or a trusted member of staff, an email directly to our designated senior leader for child protection, Mrs Mansfield (email [m.mansfield@roundwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:m.mansfield@roundwoodpark.co.uk)), will be dealt with professionally and sensitively.

Finally, a word to Year 11 and their parents. The students have made a fantastic start to their assessments. They are well equipped, well prepared and positive about facing the challenges. Keep going! Similarly, Year 13 are fired up and ready to go for their first week next week. I won't wish them luck as they are too well prepared to need it! To all of our students I say, we are here with kindness and with care for you, whenever you need us.

Have a lovely weekend!

*AHenshall*

Alan Henshall  
Headteacher